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October 11, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Abbott Southern
Deputy Director
United States Information AgencySUBJECT: Department of State Comments on U.S. Budget for
Acquisition and Construction of Radio Facilities

Mr. McDeville's memorandum to Mr. Strickland of October 2 is noted. The Department might recommend the expansion of radio facilities beyond that provided in your 1956 budget proposal. As a result of thorough consideration of your budget dealing with the "Acquisition and Construction of Radio Facilities," and in accordance with a policy decision approved by the Joint Secretary, the Department now believes that every effort should be made to reach effectively with both medium and short-wave broadcasting foreign audiences in those particularly important target areas: 1) Soviet Central Asia; 2) the Near East, and 3) Central and South Africa. It is especially important to seek every possible means of offsetting the powerful influence of Radio Cairo. In this connection it is considered desirable that the maximum power feasible be used and that medium and short-wave transmitters be located in areas such as the Eastern Mediterranean to accomplish this objective. However, it is not felt that planned expansion in the number and power of transmitting facilities would adversely affect the prospects of reaching agreement on the cessation of jamming. On the contrary, it might encourage such a development.

Accordingly, the Department suggests that the level of your specific budget proposal, restricted primarily to the replacement of the Courier, will not permit an adequate expansion to reach effectively those sensitive target areas. We believe that U.S. aid, as appropriate other broadcasting organizations under U.S. sponsorship, should build facilities adequate to achieve this important goal.

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The overall WIA budget total for 1958 provides for a substantial increase over the 1957 appropriations. Our concern on the desirability of further radio-facility expansion does not necessarily suggest, of course, that the total budget request be further increased inasmuch as you might find it possible to finance greater expansion through the generally higher level already contemplated.

It is expected that the detailed policy and technical problems growing out of a still further expansion of radio facilities will necessarily be considered by established inter-agency groups, such as the Technical Panel for International Broadcasting and the WIA Committee on Broadcasting and Television.

E. Allen Lightner, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

cc: NSA/P - Mr. Kretzmann
EUR/P - Mr. Friedman
TIC - Mr. Nesbitt

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